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Annual Scottish Gathering 

## Annual Scottish Gathering, Inverness, May 4-5, 2002



*Some of the youth who contributed so much to the gathering.*

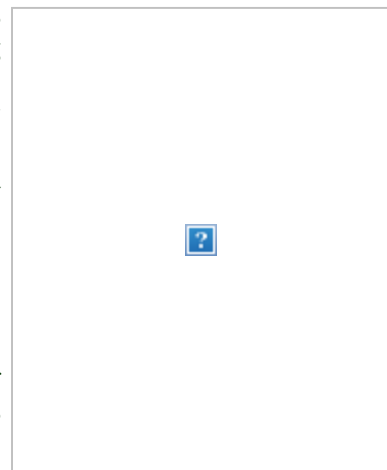


*Douglas Martin addresses the friends.*

THE FRIENDS turned out in force for this year's gathering. The weekend brought lots of warm spring sunshine, and an equally warm feeling of love and fellowship. The theme of the conference was "aligning our pursuits" and the sessions and consultation were firmly focused on the Five Year Plan. The friends were given a snapshot of some of this year's highlights by the Council for Scotland in its report to the gathering.

The programme was varied and inspiring. We were extremely privileged to have Universal House of Justice Member, Mr Douglas Martin, as our key note speaker. Mr Martin was on holiday in Scotland, visiting the land of his forefathers, and gave freely of his time to address the gathering. He helped us gain a world view of the Faith by sharing developments in the progress of the Faith worldwide. Shahriar Razavi, Member of the Continental Board of Counsellors, spoke about the Five Year Plan, reinforcing the importance of the arts and three core activities: i.e. children's classes, study circles and devotional meetings open to all. Barney Leith, representing the National Spiritual Assembly, spoke about external affairs, the importance of the Regional Councils and the Islands.

There were a number of excellent audio-visual presentations, including a recently completed video commissioned by the Council for Scotland. This was targeted at schools and colleges and featured many of the



*Irene Bennett*



images of children and teenagers who received many of the Scottish youth commenting on their commitment to the Faith. Irene Bennett shared her personal recollections of Philip Hainsworth with us during a moving memorial which was followed by music and images of Philip's life.



*Smiles in the sunshine!*

The friends were treated to an evening of first class entertainment. The first item was "A Life So Noble", a dramatic presentation by Beverley Evans, portraying the life of Rúhíyyih Khánum. This was followed by a dance performance featuring the combined talents of "Waking Dreams" and "Northern Lights". An informal introduction by Omid Djalili had some of the islanders literally rolling in the aisles!

In his closing remarks, Mr Martin reminded the friends to be audacious and confident in their teaching and assured them that the Faith had deep foundations which were "earthquakeproof". Many thanks to the Council and all who worked so hard to make the gathering a success.

